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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF BENIN, CAPE VERDE, GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, TOGO AND UPPER VOLTA

Assistance to the Economic Community of West African States (Supplementary Assistance) (RAF/77/032)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval :	May 1979
Starting date of project activities :	March 1978 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date :	December 1980
To be executed by :	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Government implementing agency :	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval :	$455 900
Source of UNDP financing :	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) decided to carry out a general Economic Survey in the sixteen member countries, as one of its first activities, in addition to a Trade Study and a Transport and Telecommunications Study.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. The General Economic Survey was to include a systematic appraisal of the economic and social conditions of the Member States comprising an analysis of the structure of the economy, trends in national income accounts and social indicators, progress made in the implementation of development plans, the major economic and social problems faced in the current plan period and an assessment of efforts being made to tackle the economic and social problems. It would also constitute an examination of the national, regional and international contributions to the solution of the major problems, and carefully consider the possibilities of exploiting international programmes of assistance. It should also provide the basis for the Community's policies and programming in industrialization, agriculture, energy and manpower development. Finally, it should afford an examination of the possibilities for short- and medium-term monetary and financial co-operation which would facilitate the achievement of the Community's objectives.

3. Within the General Economic Survey, as a first step, a Critical Appraisal was to be undertaken of the economic and social conditions prevailing in the Member States. The ECOWAS Executive Secretary requested UNDP assistance for the completion of this particular phase of the survey, on the basis of a general agreement with the ECOWAS Secretariat that UNDP would contribute a global allocation of one million dollars towards the General Economic Survey.

4. UNDP assistance was initially approved in March 1978 [1/] for the purpose of helping the ECOWAS Secretariat in the formulation of trade and economic co-operation policies, including commodity, monetary and financial co-operation, and their implementation. This assistance is on-going and will last through end 1980 as currently scheduled. The present approval for supplementary assistance does not alter the modalities of the previously approved assistance, to which it is considered as being complementary.

II. Objectives and activities

5. The ECOWAS Ministerial Session of November 1978 took stock of the Programmes of the Community and decided that in addition to Trade, Customs, Transport and Immigration matters, attention should be given also to the completion of the Critical Appraisal part of the General Economic Survey. The rest of the survey will depend, to a large measure, on the outcome of the Critical Appraisal with regard to scope and timing.

6. The Critical Appraisal of the economic and social conditions will provide an assessment of conditions and objectives in the respective Member States and an evaluation of development strategies, as well as an evaluation of future economic projects. It will also conduct an investigation of the evaluation methods employed to measure achievements, and of the coherence of the strategy, economic structure and resource base with the stated objectives.

1/ DP/PROJECTS/2636.

III. Inputs

7. The ECOWAS Secretariat has designated the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) to undertake the Critical Appraisal. UNDP through the Ececuting Agency, UNCTAD, will provide for a subcontract ($460,000) with the ECOWAS Secretariat for implementation of the assistance requested.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	544 500	(3 300)	541 200
Subcontract	125 500	460 000	585 500
Training	20 000		20 000
Equipment	2 000		2 000
Miscellaneous	8 000	(800)	7 200
	700 000	455 900	1 155 900